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Succinct Proofs of Primality for the Factors of Some Fermat Numbers

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Abstract. We give short and easily verified proofs of primality for the factors of the Fermat numbers F_5, F_6, F_7 and F_8.

1. Introduction. The Fermat numbers $F_k = 2^{2^k} + 1$ are prime for $1 \leqslant k \leqslant 4$ and have exactly two prime factors for $5 \leqslant k \leqslant 8$. Here we give 'succinct' [7] and easily verified proofs of primality for the prime factors of F_k, $5 \leqslant k \leqslant 8$. We assume that the primality of integers smaller than 10^7 is easy to check [5].

To prove that an integer p is prime, it is sufficient to find an integer x such that

$$x^{p-1} = 1 \pmod p$$

and, for all prime divisors q of $p - 1$,

$$x^{(p-1)/q} \neq 1 \pmod p.$$

Then x is a primitive root $(\bmod\, p)$. The difficulty in finding such proofs lies in factorizing $p - 1$; see e.g. [4].

2. Proofs of Primality. In Table 1 we give the least positive primitive root $(\bmod\, p_k)$ and the complete factorization of $p_k - 1$ for the primes p_k listed in Table 2. Using Table 1, it is easy to verify that $p_{20}, \ldots, p_1$ are in fact prime. Since

$$\begin{aligned} F_5 &= 641 \cdot 6700417 && \text{(Euler)},\\ F_6 &= 274177 \cdot p_1 && \text{(Landry)},\\ F_7 &= p_2 \cdot p_3 && \text{(Morrison and Brillhart [6])}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$F_8 = p_8 \cdot p_9 \qquad \text{(Brent and Pollard [3])},$$

this completes the required primality proofs.

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TABLE 1
Primitive roots and factorizations

k	primitive root (mod p_k)	factorization of $p_k - 1$
1	3	$2^8 \cdot 5 \cdot 47 \cdot 373 \cdot 2998279$
2	3	$2^9 \cdot p_4$
3	21	$2^9 \cdot 3^5 \cdot 5 \cdot 12497 \cdot p_6$
4	2	$2 \cdot 7 \cdot 449 \cdot p_5$
5	6	$2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 181 \cdot 1896229$
6	2	$2 \cdot 3 \cdot 2203 \cdot p_7$
7	3	$2^3 \cdot 6939437$
8	3	$2^{11} \cdot 157 \cdot p_{10}$
9	43	$2^{11} \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot p_{11} \cdot p_{12}$
10	6	$2^6 \cdot 5 \cdot 719 \cdot 16747$
11	17	$2 \cdot 1789 \cdot 10079 \cdot 876769$
12	11	$2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 8861 \cdot p_{13} \cdot p_{14} \cdot p_{15}$
13	2	$2^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 223 \cdot 1699$
14	2	$2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot 16879 \cdot p_{16}$
15	5	$2 \cdot 20939 \cdot p_{18}$
16	11	$2 \cdot p_{17}$
17	2	$2 \cdot 13 \cdot 1604753$
18	5	$2^2 \cdot 3^2 \cdot p_{19}$
19	3	$2^4 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot p_{20}$
20	2	$2 \cdot 23 \cdot 29^2 \cdot 283$

TABLE 2
Primes related to factors of Fermat numbers

k	p_k
1	67280421310721
2	59649589127497217
3	5704689200685129054721
4	116503103764643
5	18533742247
6	733803839347
7	55515497
8	1238926361552897
9	93461639715357977769163558199606896584051237541638188580280321
10	3853149761
11	31618624099079
12	1057372046781162536274034354686893329625329
13	10608557
14	25353082741699
15	9243081088796207
16	83447159
17	41723579
18	220714482277
19	6130957841
20	10948139

3. Comments. The larger factor p_9 of F_8 was first proved to be prime by H. C. Williams, using the method of [8]. At that time the complete factorization of $p_9 - 1$ was not known.

To obtain Table 1 we had to factorize several large integers. All nontrivial factorizations given in Table 1 were obtained using the Monte Carlo method of [2], implemented with the MP package [1]. The most difficult factorizations were those of the 56-digit integer $p_{11}p_{12}$ and the 30-digit integer $p_{14}p_{15}$. The numbers of arithmetic operations required for these factorizations were approximately as predicted by the probabilistic analysis of [2].

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